

NEW JERSEY LODGE U.D. IN CALIFORNIA

In the "PLACER TIMES" the local newspaper of Sacramento, California, was the following announcement:

Sacramento, April 5, 1850

After a meeting of the Worshipful Masters of the following Ancient York Masons, held at the Masonic Hall in Sacramento City, on April 5, A.D. 1850, viz: Brother John A. Tutt, Connecticut Lodge No. 75; Saschel Woods, Western Star Lodge No. 98; Wm. N. Doughty, New Jersey Lodge U.D.; B. D. Hyam, Benicia Lodge U.D.; on motion it was

Resolved, That it is deemed expedient to form a Grand Lodge in this State, and that a convention be held for that purpose on April 17, 1850, at the City of Sacramento. Also that all regular Lodges of Ancient York Masons of the State of California and all present and Past Grand Officers be invited to attend said convention.

Resolved, That above proceedings be published in the different newspapers of San Francisco and Sacramento City.

It was further resolved, That Brother William M. Doughty be empowered to forward a copy of above resolutions to every and all legally constituted Lodges throughout the State who are not here represented to meet with us in said conventions.

SASCHEL WOODS, Chairman.

While California and 1850 may seem a long ways off in time and place to New Jersey and now, this newspaper report gives mention of a New Jersey Lodge Under Dispensation in California.

It has long been held and frequently reported in the various histories and reports about Freemasonry in New Jersey that only once did the Grand Lodge of New Jersey ever issue any authority to a group of Masons from this State of New Jersey to form and open a Lodge under its authority to labor outside the jurisdiction of this State. That one occasion that is so often

cited was in 1791 when the Grand Lodge of New Jersey gave a warrant to Dr. William Burnet, Jr., to labor in Hamilton County, in the Territory Northwest of the Ohio River, the present State of Ohio. That Lodge was known as Nova Caesarea Lodge No. 10 (Nova Caesarea being the ancient Latin name for New Jersey). It has its name incorporated into the name of that lodge which descended from old No. 10 and still operates in Cincinnati, Ohio, as Nova Caesarea-Harmony Lodge No. 2. It is also interesting to note that Nova Caesarea-Harmony Lodge No. 2 had a significant part in the formation and growth of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

In the later date, as noted in the newspaper account in California in 1850, we again find a New Jersey Lodge U.D. playing a significant part in the formation of a Grand Lodge, this time in California.

To set the record straight, we must mention that, although the newspaper account said State of California, the truth is that California was a Territory and that Statehood was not officially given until later that year on September 9, 1850. This does not mean that there must be a State government before a Grand Lodge may be formed; many of our Territories and had Grand Lodges before becoming States, while some of our States did not immediately organize Grand Lodges upon gaining Statehood.

So to consider New Jersey Lodge U.D., we will first consider the facts in this order: first, in California, for there are some facts and records; second, in New Jersey, to consider the persons involved and what can be assumed from existing facts because the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey has no mention of this New Jersey Lodge U.D., although there is no doubt that it was a legitimate dispensation.

When James Marshall found flecks of a shining metal in the mill race of a mill he was building for Captain John Sutter on a stream near Sacramento, he probably had no idea of the news his discovery would make when it turned out that this was gold. It put into motion one of the most im-

portant migrations this nation has ever known - the Gold Rush of 1849.

(Incidentally James Marshall was born in Hope, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. He was a member of Sonora Chapter No. 2, RAM, in California, although his lodge is not known.)

Many of those who followed the "rainbow to the pot of gold" went in groups which bore authority to form and hold lodges in the gold rush country. At the time of the announcement in the newspaper for April 5, 1850, as noted above, there were the following Masonic Lodges authorized as follows: (Also see accompanying chart.)

1. Western Star Lodge No. 98 (Missouri)
2. California Lodge No. 13 (District of Columbia)
3. Pacific Lodge U.D. (Louisiana)
4. Davy Crockett Lodge U.D. (Louisiana)
5. Connecticut Lodge No. 75 (Connecticut)
6. New Jersey Lodge U.D. (New Jersey)
7. Sierra Lodge U.D. (Indiana)
8. Lavelly Lodge U.D. (Illinois)
9. Pacific Lodge U.D. (Illinois)
10. Gregory Yale Lodge U.D. (Florida)
11. Lafayette Lodge No. 29 (Wisconsin)

There were in addition some five other dispensations that were given for lodges which had probably not opened as lodges, or maybe the dispensations had never reached California.

The first meeting for the formation of a Grand Lodge for California took place on March 13, 1850, when the representatives of Western Star Lodge No. 98 of Benton City, Upper California; Pacific Lodge U.D. at Benicia; and New Jersey Lodge U.D. at Sacramento, met in an assembly and formed the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of California and adopted a constitution for the same.

Now in the next few days following that action there are some things that took place for which there is no good explanation as to why and there is no record to document it. It seemed, however that there was some question as to the legality of the actions under which the deed was done: first, California Lodge No. 13 had not attended the meeting, indeed, it may not have been invited); second, there was a question of the legality or legitimacy of Pacific Lodge U.D., which was under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Louisiana, a Grand Lodge that was at that time under challenge as to its regularity; third, New Jersey Lodge U.D. (a dispensation from the Deputy Grand Master of New Jersey, which was a valid dispensation) was a questionable participant in the proceedings because there was a question as to whether a lodge while under dispensation may legally participate in the formation of a Grand Lodge, even though the dispensation may be adequate and legitimate.

It might be worth noting here that in February 1850 the problems that arose to question the legality of the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Louisiana were resolved and that Grand Lodge was recognized as a regular Grand Lodge, so the second point above was not really a challenge, although this information had not reached California due to the difficulties in communication in that day.

In order to remove any doubt as to the legitimacy of a Grand Lodge to be established in California and before a Grand Master was elected, these organizers from the March assembly met on April 15, 1850, and rescinded the action of March 13, 1850.

In the notice for the April 5 summons for the lodges to meet in Convention at Sacramento on April 17, 1850, this was the time to form a regular Grand Lodge. The three duly warranted lodges which met were:

1. California Lodge No. 13 (warrant from the District of Columbia and which became No. 1.

2. Western Star Lodge No. 98 (warrant from the Grand Lodge of Missouri) and which became No. 2.
3. Connecticut Lodge No. 75 (warrant from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut) and which became No. 3.

Charles Gilman, Past Grand Master of New Hampshire in 1830 and Past Grand Master of Maryland in 1842 and 1845, was asked to preside over the Convention. A constitution was adopted and Grand Officers elected and installed. The first Grand Master was Jonathan Drake Stevenson, who was a law partner of Charles Gilman in San Francisco.

An item of note is that William N. Doughty, who was listed as Master of New Jersey Lodge U.D. in the April 5, 1850 notice, was elected and installed Junior Grand Warden although the New Jersey Lodge was not accepted into the Grand Lodge until the next Annual Communication which was held on the following May 7, 1850.

Another item of note is the place of the meeting to form the Grand Lodge. The three lodges that met in Sacramento, and in fact the Grand Lodge, met in a building that was known in Sacramento as the "Red House." It was a three story frame building typical of a "boom town." Pictures of it show that the top floor bore a sign saying "Masonic Hall" arched over a Square and Compass. The second floor had a sign which clearly said "The Red House - Lodgings \$5.00"; while the ground floor bore the sign "Hardware -- Groceries and Mining Supplies." The second floor was noted for some popular activities that are characteristic of such "boom towns." A typical comment was: "...in passing in and out of the lodge or Grand Lodge, the brethren are said to have been under the necessity of observing the occupants of the second floor, who Past Grand Master Sherman described as unqualified for Masonry both by sex and morals." Another comment was "...owing to the unsavory character of the tenants on the lower floor, the lodge room soon moved to J Street between First and Second....."

The First Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California was held less than a month later on May 7, 1850. At that time three new lodges were admitted:

No. 4 -- New Jersey Lodge U.D. was admitted as  
Berryman Lodge No. 4;

No. 5 -- Pacific Lodge U.D. was admitted as  
Benicia Lodge No. 5;

No. 6 -- A new Lodge -- Sutter Lodge No. 6 was  
chartered at Sacramento.

So New Jersey Lodge U.D. passed out of existence to become Berryman Lodge No. 4. This is a rather interesting story about the name of the lodge. It was named after W. Berryman Jennings, who was the first Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of California. The next year, 1851, the lodge changed the name of the lodge to Jennings Lodge No. 4. So here was the case of a man who had a lodge named after his second name and a year later had it changed to his first name.

It really didn't make much difference because, due to difficulties within the lodge (probably a rapid turnover of members), the lodge surrendered the charter to the Grand Lodge in 1853. The dispensation and the jewels of the lodge are still in the archives of the Grand Lodge.

And W. Berryman Jennings, the lodge's namesake, didn't stay long either, for we find that he was elected the first Grand Master of the newly formed Grand Lodge of Oregon at its institution on September 15, 1851.

Now for the second part of the story -- how did this lodge get its start in New Jersey?

When the news of the discovery of gold in California reached the eastern part of the United States, the gold fever burned hot. Thousands were ready to go, and there was a group in Newark, New Jersey that was ready to go. It was not a wild-eyed bunch of youths either as you will see.

In late 1848 and early 1849, a group of some thirty men in Newark, many of whom were members of the Craft, began preparations for the venture to California in hopes of fulfilling their golden dreams or dreams of gold. The reason that we say in 1848 was the beginning of their plans is that some of these men had applied for dimitz in January of 1849 in preparation for the trip, and this also shows that they intended to take the Craft with them.

On March 1, 1849, the scheduled day of departure, Right Worshipful Brother Edward Stewart, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, and a member of Newark Lodge No. 7, issued a dispensation to "Brother Thomas Youngs, Moses Personett, John R. Clark, and others, to open a lodge in the territory of California, with power to continue same through themselves or their successors, until the next regular communication of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, or until their charter is granted."

This dispensation was never reported to the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. There was an emergent Communication of the Grand Lodge on March 15, 1849, over which the Deputy Grand Master Edward Stewart presided, but he did not report his action. Nor was it reported at the next Annual Communication on January 9, 1850, at which time Edward Stewart was elected Grand Master, an office which he was to hold for six consecutive years (1850-1856). Thus there are no records of this New Jersey Lodge U.D. in the records of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey.

So, on the day of the dispensation, the group assembled at the Market Street Station for a grand sendoff. The planned trip was by rail to St. Louis and then overland by wagon train. They went by the southern route and the newspaper accounts describe it as a "terrible journey, on which two of their members died and were buried by the trailside." The group finally reached the headwaters of the Sacramento River about the first of October in 1849, some seven months journey.

Thomas Youngs who was listed as the Master in the dispensation was

made a Mason in St. John's Lodge No. 2 (now No. 1) in 1841. He dimitted on February 7, 1849, in anticipation for the westward journey. Whether he actually reached Sacramento is not known, because he was back in Newark by early in 1850, as he is listed in the Newark City Directory in 1850 as the Toll Collector at the Old Bridge. He transferred his powers as Master to Brother John R. Crockett, and this is certified in writing on the back of the dispensation. He was authorized to do this as the dispensation stated that they were empowered to appoint their successors.

On December 4, 1849, Right Worshipful Brother John R. Crockett opened New Jersey Lodge U.D. for labor in the City of Sacramento, California, the first lodge in that boom town, soon to be a booming city.

The Masons in Sacramento were in three lodges with a total membership of sixty-nine. They were a sturdy lot, however, and when a cholera epidemic broke out in 1850, these Masons, with the assistance of the Odd Fellows, built a hospital at Sutter's Fort at a cost of \$32,000, raised \$4,000 for relief, buried the dead, and did whatever else they could to bring an end to the epidemic.

John R. Crockett, who assumed the chair for the opening, was born in Orange, New Jersey, on February 21st, 1802. He moved to Newark and became associated with Seth Boyden, a noted Newark inventor, in the manufacture of patent leather, a principal industry of Newark at that time. He was raised in Newark Lodge No. 55 (later No. 7) on October 9, 1828, in the second year of that lodge's life which was in the midst of the anti-Masonic uproar. He was appointed Junior Deacon in 1828, and progressed through the line to become Master in 1833, and for the next three years. In 1839 he was again Junior Warden and in 1840 Senior Warden.

Crockett was said to have been "one of the most untiring laborers in sustaining both the lodge and the Grand Lodge during the darkest days of which Masonry has passed." He dimitted from Newark Lodge No. 55 on January

11th, 1841, and affiliated with St. John's Lodge No. 2. Crockett and Thomas Youngs represented that lodge at the Grand Lodge in 1845, as Master and Senior Warden respectively, at which session, he was elected Senior Grand Warden, and re-elected to that office in 1846. He dimitted from St. John's Lodge on January 8, 1849, in preparation for the western sojourn. Crockett was not associated with the lodge in California when it was warranted as Berryman Lodge No. 4, probably having given up the search for gold and returned to Newark. It is known that he affiliated with Union Lodge No. 11 of Orange on December 7, 1852. He was present at the Grand Lodge Communication in June 1852. He dimitted from Union Lodge on January 26, 1852, to become a charter member of Northern Lodge No. 25 of Newark, serving as its first Senior Warden. He was later Treasurer of that lodge and held that office until his death in 1867.

Moses W. Personett, who was named Senior Warden in the dispensation, was a member of St. John's Lodge No. 1 of Newark. He withdrew his membership on February 2, 1849, in preparation for the journey west.

Probably the most of all who made this trip was General John S. Darcy, M.D., who was both a well known citizen of New Jersey and a distinguished Mason. He was born in Hanover Township, Morris County, New Jersey, on February 24, 1788. He followed in the steps of his father in becoming a skillful and distinguished surgeon and doctor. He served in the War of 1812 and later was appointed a Major General in command of the State Militia. He served as a United States Marshal for New Jersey under Presidents Jackson and Van Buren. In Masonry he served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey for the years 1826 and 1827. He was initiated, passed and raised in Cincinnati Lodge No. 17 (now No. 3) in 1808, in October - he then being under the age of twenty-one by several months. He served as its Master in 1819. He dimitted to make the western trip, but he like several others of the party did not

remain in California, as we find that he affiliated with St. John's Lodge No. 1 of Newark on May 28, 1851, and he was present at the June session of the Grand Lodge.

He was active in other branches of Masonry, being a member of Cincinnati Mark Lodge No. 1 in 1810 and 1811. Later he was a charter member of Franklin Chapter No. 2 of Whippany in the foundation of the First Grand Chapter of New Jersey. He was also a member of Union Chapter No. 7 of Newark when it was warranted in 1858. He also was one of the first members of Kane Council No. 2, Royal and Select Masters.

It is not known when General Darcy was made a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, but we do know that he was coroneted a 33<sup>o</sup> in the Cross-Atwood Council on February 7, 1851, which must have been shortly after his return from California. He was a member of the Hayes Council in 1861.

General Darcy was one of those few Masons who have had two Lodges bear his name: Darcy Lodge No. 37 in New Jersey; and Darcy Lodge No. 187 in New York.

There were three other known Masons in the group: S. H. Meeker, William Donaldson Kinney and Lewis B. Baldwin. S. H. Meeker and W. Donaldson Kinney were both members of St. John's Lodge No. 1. They had been entered, passed and raised at the same communication of that Lodge under a dispensation granted by Deputy Grand Master Edward Stewart to prepare them to make the western venture as members of the Craft. William Donaldson Kinney was also to return and remain active in Masonry. He was a member of Union Chapter No. 7, Royal Arch Masons and in 1862 was Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter. Lewis B. Baldwin was a member of Newark Lodge No. 7.

New Jersey Lodge U. D. had a short but interesting life -- from March 1, 1849 to May 7, 1850 - from dispensation to warrant as Berryman Lodge No. 4, of the Grand Lodge of California. It is to be regretted that no mention of it was made in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey.

LODGES IN THE TERRITORY OF CALIFORNIA AT THE TIME OF  
FORMATION OF THE GRAND LODGE  
APRIL 17, 1850

Lodge	Location	By Whom Warranted	Date	Later History
1. Western Star Lodge No. 98	Benton City	Grand Lodge of Missouri	May 10, 1848	Opened October 30, 1848. New Shasta No. 2
2. California Lodge No. 13	San Francisco	Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia	Nov. 9, 1848	Opened November 15, 1848. New No. 1.
3. Pacific Lodge U.D.	Benicia	Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Louisiana	June 5, 1849	New Benecia No. 5
4. Davy Crockett Lodge U.D.	San Francisco	Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Louisiana	1849	Later San Francis- co Lodge No. 7. Charter revoked in 1859.
5. Connecticut Lodge No. 75	Sacramento	Grand Lodge of Connecticut	Jan. 31, 1849	New Tehama Lodge No. 3.
6. New Jersey Lodge U.D.	Sacramento	Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey	Mar. 1, 1849	Later Berryman, then Jennings Lodge No. 4. Charter surrendered 1853.
7. Sierra Nevada Lodge U.D.	Centerville	Grand Lodge of Indiana	May 1849	New Madisen Lodge No. 23 at Green Valley
8. Lavelly Lodge U.D.	Marysville	Grand Lodge of Illinois	October 1849	Later Marysville Lodge No. 9; now Corinthian Lodge No. 9.

- 9. Pacific Lodge U.D. Long's Bar Grand Lodge of Illinois October 1849 Expired.
- 10. Gregory Yale Lodge U.D. Stockton Grand Lodge of Florida 1849 Expired.
- 11. Lafayette Lodge No. 29 Nevada City Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Apr. 20, 1850 Now Nevada Lodge No. 13.

The following dispensations were issued but apparently were never put into use:

- 1. Massachusetts Lodge San Francisco Dispensation by the Grand Master of Massachusetts. 1848
- 2. California Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Master of the Grand March 16, 1849 of Texas.
- 3. San Francisco Lodge San Francisco Grand Master of the Grand May 1849 Designated a Lodge of Indiana. travelling Lodge.
- 4. Richmond Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Master of the Grand Dec. 11, 1849 Designated a Lodge of Virginia. travelling Lodge.
- 5. An Ohio Lodge "in the mining Grand Master of the Grand March 5, 1850 district of Cal- Lodge of Ohio. ifornia."
- 6. Massachusetts Lodge Hazard Grand Master of the Grand June 14, 1848 Hazard was for many years under the Grand Lodge of California.